

Packets conveying data are received by a router via input ports which impose on them optical carrier waves whose wavelengths correspond to the ports. Respective time-delays are applied to the packets and they are broadcast to spatial  
5 selectors that transmit them to spectral selectors. Amplifiers are distributed over the paths of the packets and the paths are organized in such a manner as to limit the number of semiconductor optical switches in the selectors and to minimize noise and optical crosstalk affecting the packets.